

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

ACDA-05 SS-15 NSC-05 PM-03 NIC-01 IO-04 SCS-02 SCA-01

SAJ-01 SY-04 L-01 H-01 PRS-01 PA-01 CIAE-00 INR-05

NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 CPR-01 DRC-01 /066 W

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O 151737Z OCT 74

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4163

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

:INCEUR FOR POLAD & OPS IMMEDIATE

CINUSAREUR FOR POLAD OPS AND AEAGC-COC IMMEDIATE

CINCUSAFE FOR POLAD AND OPS IMMEDIATE

USELMLO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 1853

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, MOSP, WB, GE

SUBJECT: DETENTION OF US MILITARY PERSONNEL IN EAST BERLIN

1. STAFF SERGEANT BOBBY J. JONES AND PRIVATE MARIE M. LOWERY WERE DETAINED IN EAST BERLIN FOR ABOUT TWO HOURS ON OCTOBER 14 BY INDIVIDUALS IN CIVILIAN CLOTHING WHOM JONES BELIEVED WERE SECURITY POLICE.

2. MISSION PROTOCOL OFFICER MET WITH DEPUTY SOVIET PROTOCOL OFFICER ADOMAITIS AT 1500 OCTOBER 15 TO DELIVER FOLLOWING STATEMENT, IN WHICH FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL DETAILS ARE INCORPORATED.

BEGIN TEXT: BETWEEN ABOUT 2000 AND 2220 ON OCTOBER 14,  
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1974, TWO UNIFORMED MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES

FORCES WERE DETAINED IN LICHTENBERG DISTRICT OF EAST BERLIN. STAFF SERGEANT BOBBY J. JONES AND PRIVATE MARIE M. LOWRY WERE VISITING EAST BERLIN AND BECAME LOST WHILE PROCEEDING EAST ON FRANKFURTER ALLEE. AFTER PASSING FRANKFURTER ALLEE S-BAHN STATION, SERGEANT JONES TURNED LEFT ONTO A SIDE STREET AND STOPPED IN ORDER TO STUDY HIS STREET MAP OF BERLIN. AT THIS POINT THE DOORS OF HIS VEHICLE WERE OPENED BY INDIVIDUALS IN CIVILIAN CLOTHING, WHOM SERGEANT JONES UNDERSTOOD TO HAVE IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES AS SECURITY POLICEMEN, WHO DEMANDED THAT THE TWO AMERICANS GET OUT. BOTH CORRECTLY REFUSED AND SERGEANT JONES REQUEST A SOVIET OFFICER. THIS REQUEST WAS DENIED. SERGEANT JONES WAS FORCEFULLY PULLED FROM HIS VEHICLE, FORCED TO SURRENDER HIS IDENTIFICATION CARD AFTER HIS ARMS WERE TWISTED BEHIND HIS BACK, AND THEN TAKEN A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY IN AN EAST GERMAN VEHICLE. PRIVATE LOWRY WAS ALSO FORCED FROM THE VEHICLE, FORCED TO GIVE UP HER IDENTIFICATION CARD, AND DRIVEN A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY. SERGEANT JONES' VEHICLE WAS DRIVEN A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY AND APPARENTLY SEARCHED.

AFTER NEARLY TWO HOURS SERGEANT JONES AND PRIVATE LOWRY WERE TOLD TO RETURN TO SERGEANT JONES' VEHICLE, WHERE THE EAST GERMANS TOOK NUMEROUS PHOTOGRAPHS AND TOLD SERGEANT JONES TO VERIFY THAT NOTHING HAD BEEN TAKEN FROM HIS VEHICLE. THEY WERE THEN ESCORTED TO THE FRIEDRICHSTRASSE CROSSING POINT, WHERE THEY WERE TOLD BY ONE OF THE INDIVIDUALS WHO DETAINED THEM NEVER TO RETURN TO EAST BERLIN.

I AM INSTRUCTED TO PROTEST THE DETENTION OF THE TWO AMERICAN MILITARY PERSONNEL, EXERCISING THEIR RIGHT OF FREE CIRCULATION WITHIN GREATER BERLIN, THE FAILURE OF SOVIET OFFICERS TO BE CALLED TO THE SCENE OF THE DETENTION, AND THE USE OF FORCE TO CAUSE SERGEANT JONES AND PRIVATE LOWRY TO PRODUCE IDENTIFICATION OTHER THAN THEIR MILITARY UNIFORM. THIS DETENTION OF SERGEANT JONES AND PRIVATE LOWRY REPRESENTS A SERIOUS VIOLATION OF THE RIGHTS AND STATUS OF THE UNITED STATE FORCES  
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IN BERLIN, PARTICULARLY THE RIGHT OF ANY MEMBER OF THOSE FORCES TO FREE AND UNHINDERED CIRCULATION THROUGHOUT GREATER BERLIN, WHICH IS EXERCISED UNDER THE GUARANTEE OF THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES. THE UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES REJECT THE UNLAWFUL DEMAND THAT SERGEANT JONES AND PRIVATE LOWRY NOT RETURN TO EAST BERLIN, AND DEMAND FULL EXPLANATION OF THESE UNJUSTIFIED ACTIONS AND PROMPT PUNISHMENT OF THE INDIVIDUALS WHO CARRIED

THEM OUT, END TEXT.

3. ADOMAITIS SAID THAT HE COULD NOT ACCEPT STATEMENT, SINCE COMPETENCE IN THIS MATTER ALY WITH GDR AUTHORITIES AND NOT WITH SOVIET EMBASSY. HE WOULD TAKE IF FOR INFORMATION ONLY. MISSION PROTOCOL OFFICER INSISTED ON SOVIET RESPONSIBILITY AND UNDERSCORED NEED FOR FULL EXPLANATION OF INCIDENT, ADDING THAT WE COULD PERCEIVE NO REASON FOR DETENTION. ADOMAITIS SPECULATED THAT U.S. VEHICLE HAD VENTURED ON TO BLOCKED-OFF STREET, BUT THEN ADMITTED THAT ERROR SUCH AS THIS WOULD HARDLY BE CAUSE FOR FORCIBLE TWO-HOUR DETENTION. ADOMAITIS UNDERTOOK TO PASS STATEMENT ON TO HIS SUPERIORS

4. INVESTIGATION BY US MILITARY AUTHORITIES GIVES US NO REASON TOBELIEVE FACTS OF INCIDENT WERE OTHER THAN AS REPORTED ABOVE. WE ARE PUZZLED AS TO WHAT EAST GERMANS WERE UP TO AND CAN ONLY SPECULATE WHETHER THEY WERE ATTEMPTING TO FRAME OUR PERSONNEL OR ONE OF THEIR OWN, OR WERE ACTING ON BASIS OF BUM TIP.KLEIN

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PGOV, MOPS, WB, GC, (JONES, BOBBY J), (LOWERY, MARIE M)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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